

# HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY FORM

## IDENTIFICATION SECTION

**Field Site No.** 6652-L **OAHP No.** **Date Recorded** 25 June 1993  
**Site Name Historic** H-52 Nike Missile Base - Underground Missile Storage Facility Revised 27 July 1994  
**Common** 100 Area Emergency Relocation Center 1 March 1997  
**Field Recorder** Rance Bayman/A.L. Mitchell/D.W. Harvey  
**Owner's Name** Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office  
**Address** P.O. Box 550  
**City/State/Zip Code** Richland, WA 99352 HCRL Roll B1; frames 9 & 11 (B&W)

## Status

☒ Survey/Inventory  
☐ National Register  
☐ State Register  
☐ Determined Eligible  
☐ Determined Not Eligible  
☐ Other (HABS, HAER, NHL)  
☐ Local Designation

## Photography

Roll B57; frames 15-37 (B&W)  
Roll 114; frames 37 & 38  
Photography Neg. No. Roll 287; frames 6 & 7  
(Roll No. & Frame No.) Roll 241; frames 23-37  
View of Surface and underground features  
Date 24 June 1993 - 25 August 1995; June 1997

Photo at right: Roll 287, frame 7  
View of south facade

**Classification** ☐ District ☐ Site ☐ Building ☒ Structure ☐ Object  
**District Status** ☒ NR ☐ SR ☐ LR ☐ INV  
**Contributing** ☒  
**District/Thematic Nomination Name** Hanford Site Manhattan Project and Cold War Era Historic District

## Description Section

### Materials & Features/Structural Types

**Building Type** Defense  
**Plan** Irregular  
**Structural System** Steel  
**No. of Stories** N/A (subsurface)

### Roof Type

☐ Gable ☐ Hip  
☒ Flat ☐ Pyramidal  
☐ Monitor ☐ Other (specify)  
☐ Gambrel  
☐ Shed

### Cladding (exterior Wall Surfaces)

☐ Log  
☐ Horizontal Wood Siding  
Rustic/Drop ☐  
Clapboard ☐  
☐ Wood Shingle  
☐ Board and Batten  
☐ Vertical Board  
☐ Asbestos/Asphalt  
☐ Brick  
☐ Stone  
☐ Stucco  
☐ Terra Cotta  
☒ Concrete/Concrete Block  
☐ Vinyl/Aluminum Siding  
☐ Metal (specify)  
☐ Other (specify)

### Roof Material

☐ Wood Shingle  
☐ Wood Shake  
☐ Composition  
☐ Slate  
☐ Tar/Built-up  
☐ Tile  
☐ Metal (specify)  
☒ Other (specify) concrete  
☐ Not visible

### Foundation

☐ Log ☐ Concrete  
☐ Post & Pier ☐ Block  
☐ Stone ☒ Poured  
☐ Brick ☐ Other (specify)  
☐ Not visible

## Integrity

(Include detailed description in  
**Description of Physical Appearance)**

	Intact	Slight	Moderate	Extensive
Changes to plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Changes to windows	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Changes to original cladding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Changes to interior	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

State of Washington, Department of Community Development  
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
111 21st Avenue Southwest, Post Office Box 48343  
Olympia, Washington 98504-8343 (206)753-4011

## LOCATION SECTION

**Address** Rattlesnake Ridge, Fitzner-Eberhardt Arid Lands Ecology Reserve  
**City/Town/County/Zip Code** Richland/Benton County/99352  
**Twp. 11 N Range 26 E Section 35 1/4 Section SW 1/4 1/4 Sec NW, SW**  
**Tax No./Parcel No.** **Acreage**  
**Quadrangle or map name** Iowa Flats Quad., WA-Benton Co., 7.5 Minute Series, 1974  
**UTM References Zone 11 Easting 305380m Northing 5140540m**  
**Plat/Block/Lot**  
**Supplemental Map(s)** Camp Hanford Basic Information Maps by the Corps of Engineers,  
U.S. Army, December 1958, Site H-52-L.



## High Styles/Forms (Check one or more of the following)

<input type="checkbox"/> Greek Revival	<input type="checkbox"/> Spanish Colonial Revival/Mediterranean
<input type="checkbox"/> Gothic Revival	<input type="checkbox"/> Tudor Revival
<input type="checkbox"/> Italianate	<input type="checkbox"/> Craftsman/Arts & Crafts
<input type="checkbox"/> Second Empire	<input type="checkbox"/> Bungalow
<input type="checkbox"/> Romanesque Revival	<input type="checkbox"/> Prairie Style
<input type="checkbox"/> Stick Style	<input type="checkbox"/> Art Deco/Art Moderne
<input type="checkbox"/> Queen Anne	<input type="checkbox"/> Rustic Style
<input type="checkbox"/> Shingle Style	<input type="checkbox"/> International Style
<input type="checkbox"/> Colonial Revival	<input type="checkbox"/> Northwest Style
<input type="checkbox"/> Beaux Arts/Neoclassical	<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Vernacular
<input type="checkbox"/> Chicago/Commercial Style	<input type="checkbox"/> Residential Vernacular (see below)
<input type="checkbox"/> American Foursquare	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Mission Revival	Industrial Vernacular

## Vernacular House Types

<input type="checkbox"/> Gable Front	<input type="checkbox"/> Cross Gable
<input type="checkbox"/> Gable Front and Wing	<input type="checkbox"/> Pyramidal/Hipped
<input type="checkbox"/> Side Gable	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)

## NARRATIVE SECTION

### Study Unit Themes (check one or more of the following)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture/Landscape Architecture
<input type="checkbox"/>	Arts
<input type="checkbox"/>	Commerce
<input type="checkbox"/>	Communications
<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Planning/Development

<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Education
<input type="checkbox"/>	Entertainment/Recreation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ethnic Heritage (specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Health/Medicine
<input type="checkbox"/>	Manufacturing/Industry
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Military

<input type="checkbox"/>	Politics/Government/Law
<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Science & Engineering
<input type="checkbox"/>	Social Movements/Organizations
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify) Cold War Era
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Study Unit Sub-Theme(s)</b> Military Operations

### Statement of Significance

Date of Construction 1955 Architect/Engineer/Builder Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army

☒ In the opinion of the surveyor, this property appears to meet the criteria of the National Register of Historic Places.

☒ In the opinion of the surveyor, this property is located in a potential historic district (National and/or local).

The 6652-L underground missile storage facility, located in the former H-52 Nike missile installation on the Arid Lands Ecology (ALE) Reserve, consisted of two underground storage magazines for Nike Ajax missiles. The two magazines had the storage capacity for twenty Ajax missiles and eight surface launchers. Each underground magazine contained a small personnel room that contained all the controls for raising and lowering the elevator and launchers, selecting the missile to be launched, and manually firing a missile if the signal cable from the control center failed. Adjacent to the personnel room was a large area, including a subfloor, for storing missiles and an elevator to carry the missiles to the surface. The magazines contained storage racks and a rail system used to deliver the missiles to the elevator. Once aboveground, the missile was moved on rails to one of four launcher-loader assemblies for firing. Following the deactivation of the Nike missile program, the south magazine was converted to an emergency relocation center for use in the event of a nuclear accident or if the Hanford Site ever came under attack. Despite structural modifications and removal of the missiles, elevators, and launcher-loader assembly equipment, the north magazine remains relatively intact. As the facility that provided missile storage, firing apparatus, and operational personnel for the maintenance and surveillance of Nike Ajax missiles, 6652-L played a strategic national security role in defense of the Hanford Site. It is therefore the conclusion of the U. S. Department of Energy that Building 6652-L is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A as a contributing property within the Hanford Site Manhattan Project and Cold War Era Historic District.

### Description of Physical Appearance

The facility consists of two former underground Nike missile magazines. The only surface manifestations are two aboveground entrance doors. The two doors face south and are set in cement walls which are set in mounds of earth backing each structure. The area is bounded on the north and west by a concrete pad and on the south and east by a parking lot. Surface soil mounds cover where missile elevator doors were once located. Inside the entrance doors, a flight of stairs descends steeply to the underground units which contained a room (and subfloor) for storing missiles, and an elevator to carry the missiles to the surface where the missiles could be loaded onto one of four launcher-loader assemblies for firing. Three of the launchers were permanently emplaced above the ground, while the fourth launcher was mounted on the elevator. When the magazine elevator was in its lowered position, the missile crew could push a missile and booster from the storage racks onto the elevator launcher.

The two underground storage units, constructed of concrete with cinder block and gypsum board partitions and floors made of concrete, vinyl, and wood, were joined by a 100 foot elliptical metal tunnel. While the configuration of the north magazine remains relatively intact, the configuration of the south magazine is no longer intact due to its conversion to an emergency relocation center following the deactivation of the Nike missile program. The emergency relocation center consisted of offices for administrative support, environmental and personnel safety, security, radiation and dose assessment, a library, and cryptographic communications. The main multi-purpose room has a "war board" that was to track events on the "outside" during a nuclear accident or attack. Adjacent to the multi-purpose room was the "decision room" where major decisions were to be made during a nuclear accident or enemy attack. While the configuration for these offices is essentially intact, most of the equipment and furniture from the center (except for the war board) has been removed. Likewise, none of the features from when the center was a magazine remain. The north magazine is basically intact although all the missiles, elevators, and launcher-loader equipment have been removed. Steel columns and ceiling beams were installed after the removal of the missiles and elevator. Below the main floor, a trap door leads to a subfloor where additional missiles were stored. A wooden ceiling, steel columns and a concrete foundation were installed in the subfloor after deactivation. Emergency escape hatches, which led from the underground personnel rooms by ladder to the outside, are still intact. The launching control panels, however, were removed. They contained the necessary controls, indicator lamps, and communication facilities to enable a launching section to control the preparation and firing of its missiles. Other features from the Nike period that remain intact in the north magazine include a security vault, several bunks, and a kitchen.

HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY FORM  
Building 6652-L (Continuation Sheet 1 of 1)

Major Bibliographic References

See Major Bibliographic References, H-52 Nike Missile Base historic property inventory form.